

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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44 ARRESTED IN STING BY ABC INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL POLICE

COTATI/ROHNERT PARK -- Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), the Cotati Police Department, and the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety arrested 44 people in an undercover operation targeting sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. The two-day operation was conducted last Thursday and Friday in the general vicinity of the California State University, Sonoma campus as part of the ABC/CSU Partnership Grant Project, which addresses the problem of alcohol abuse and binge drinking by CSU students on or near campuses.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement used several resources for the operation, one being the Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation that targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

Of the 44 people arrested during the operation, eight were booked into the county jail and 36 people were issued citations. The violations consisted of minors in possession, furnishing alcohol to a minor, drunk in public, warrant arrests, possession of narcotics, possession of an illegal weapon, sales of narcotics to undercover investigators and driving under the influence.

“Reducing access to alcohol in the place where students live, study and socialize is crucial to reducing underage and binge drinking,” said ABC Acting Director Jerry R. Jolly. “I commend the Cotati Police Department, the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety, and Sonoma State officials for their commitment to improving safety.”

The ABC/CSU Partnership Grant Project is funded with federal grants totaling \$2.57 million to support prevention, education and enforcement programs on and off selected CSU campuses. Sonoma State is one of eight CSU campuses that are part of the partnership. The other seven CSU campuses are Long Beach, Sacramento, Chico, Fresno, Hayward, Monterey Bay, and San Bernardino. Additionally, there is the ABC/UC Partnership Project that involves six UC campuses. Each campus has received grants of up to \$50,000 for on-campus education and prevention programs on the subject of binge drinking and alcohol abuse. In addition, local law enforcement agencies in campus communities are receiving grants to focus on off-campus issues involving alcohol. This includes targeting adults who furnish alcohol to minors, and retail outlets that sell to underage and/or obviously intoxicated students.

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